Enhancing a Citrix XenApp Implementation with VMware View and ThinApp

VMware View Enhances XenApp

VMware View’s virtual desktop infrastructure enhances Citrix XenApp in various ways:

- Isolates users
- Reduces capital expenses and operational costs
- Leverages the power and ease of management of vSphere/ESX/ESXi

Isolates users

By adding VMware View to your environment, you provide users with their own desktops, including their own operating system and applications. Users do not conflict with each other. XenApp provides users with a shared operating system and shared applications, and this can create conflict of resources between users.

Reduces capital expenses and operational costs

Virtual desktop environments take less effort to manage and use less expensive hardware than standard computing. Companies have realized tremendous savings by converting their more expensive PC hardware to smaller, less expensive thin clients. Administrators have also benefited by saving time and gaining control through a centralized management platform. Users still enjoy the flexibility and mobility of anywhere access to their desktop.

Leverages the power and ease of management of vSphere/ESX/ESXi

If you already have VMware ESX/vSphere, you are familiar with the ease of management and industry-leading capabilities that vSphere provides. VMware View and vSphere are tightly integrated and together provide unique capabilities such as fully virtualized 3D graphics and storage cost savings from View Storage Accelerator that are not available with other virtual desktop solutions. Plus the underlying infrastructure is familiar. If you have used VMware vSphere to virtualize your XenApp Servers, you can use your vSphere expertise to run View virtual desktops on the same familiar infrastructure.

If you are adding a virtual desktop solution to your XenApp environment, VMware View has the following advantages over other solutions on the market:

- View directly leverages the power of vSphere
- View is easier to deploy and manage
- View has lower total cost of ownership

VMware View is the leading virtual desktop solution providing greater flexibility, exceptional user experience and lower total cost of ownership.
VMware ThinApp Enhances XenApp

VMware View Premier package comes with ThinApp, the leading application virtualization platform. This powerful combination is a critical enabler for your journey to the cloud. Presenting ThinApp virtual applications through Citrix XenApp provides the following benefits:

Replaces multiple XenApp servers with the best of all three solutions. Citrix XenApp can publish ThinApp applications, and VMware View desktops can display Citrix XenApp applications, as in the following figure.

Figure 2: XenApp Applications, Including a ThinApp Package, on a View Virtual Desktop

**Eliminates application conflict**
To avoid application conflicts, Citrix isolates applications from each other via XenApp silos, which requires additional hardware. ThinApp isolates applications with software, not hardware. ThinApp virtual applications are already isolated from each other and therefore can be placed on the same XenApp Server.

**Enables quick recovery**
If a XenApp Server fails, you have to reinstall the entire XenApp server. However, if you have stored your virtual applications separately on a ThinApp file share, you have only the baseline XenApp server to reinstall, and you do not have to reinstall the applications.

**Simplifies and speeds updates**
With a standard Citrix XenApp setup, you must update each natively installed application on each XenApp Server, and you need to take each server offline to update the applications. If you use ThinApp to virtualize applications, you update only the single application on the file share, and ThinApp applications can be updated automatically while in use.

**Virtualizes IE6 and enables migration to Windows**
ThinApp allows you to virtualize Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 (IE6), and you can package IE6 along with a legacy application that depends upon IE6 or an older version of Java. Users can run virtual IE6 alongside a later version of native IE on the same desktop. The migration to Windows 7 or to later Windows versions becomes easier if you have the option of carrying forward any IE6-dependent legacy applications.

**Integrating VMware View and VMware ThinApp with Citrix XenApp Is Easy**

VMware View virtual desktops give your users isolated use of the operating system and applications, just as with a physical desktop, but with less cost. Placing shortcuts on View desktops to XenApp-presented ThinApp virtual applications gives users the best of all three solutions.